

Hand-split Shingle Making:

Shingles were not used till about
Before that time, the roofs of homes or
cabins were sod or dirt laid over slabs from
sawmill cuttings.

The shingles were usually made from
wood. The logs were cut into 16" or
18" drums. These drums
were then soaked well for
days, in hot water.

Then the soaked drums of
wood were set on a larger
block of wood.

In the earliest times
a large ^{splitting} knife was pounded
vertically thru the log twice
to make one tapered shingle.
Then the log was laborously
turned upside down and
another shingle was tapered
by splitting the log again.

This process was repeated many times
till a pile of shingles were hand-fashioned.

The next step was for young girls to place
them in a caddy & tie them into bundles.
These bundles were loaded into a wagon to
be transported to the building site. A bundle
of shingles was worth \$ each.

Later a hydraulic-driven shingle
cutting knife was employed to save
labor & increase production.

Incidentally, "Crissie" Lindsay Duke
was hired as a shingle bundler.

Even later, shingles were sawed,
but builders didn't like them as well.

